

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MONITORING AND TRANSMITTING UTILITY STATUS VIA UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS INTERFACE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and system for monitoring utility meter status, and transmitting a status message via an output device connected to a universal communications interface in the event that the utility meter status meets a predetermined condition. Typically,
10 the predetermined condition is a power loss, signified by a drop in voltage or current. The system is connected to a utility meter, such as an electric meter. The voltage level of the electric meter is monitored through a voltage input interface. An analog-to-digital converter transforms the voltage waveform into a series of digital
15 data packets, which are then transmitted to a microprocessor. The microprocessor monitors the digital signal for a power loss indication, or other predetermined condition. Once a predetermined condition is met, the microprocessor transmits a status message across a universal serial bus to a universal communications interface.
20 The universal communications interface is connected to at least one slot, which contains at least one output device. The universal communications interface is further able to determine the proper signal format employed by the output device for information transmission. Upon receipt of the status message, the universal
25 communications interface converts the status message to the signal format employed by the output device, and passes the converted status message to the output device via the slot. The output device may then transmit the status message to a remote receiver in order to quickly and accurately update distant locations regarding the utility
30 meter.